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SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT O. OBASANJO TO PRESIDENT G. BUSH

1. Following is the text of a letter from President Olusegun Obasanjo to President George Bush. The original is being sent by pouch.

2. Begin text:

His Excellency
President George Bush,
The White House,
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington, DC

Dear President,

I write to thank you very much for your hospitality to the African delegation to the Sea Island, G8 meeting on June 10, 2004. On behalf of my colleagues, I congratulate you on a very successful, innovative and highly focused meeting of the G8. Without doubt, the meeting was one more demonstration of a new dawn in US-Africa relations and a further confirmation of your commitment to the peace, stability, growth and development of Nigeria and Africa in general. Along with your colleagues in the G8, and with due cognizance of the differences in your economic and political situations, we African leaders were impressed by the openness of all of you and valued your common commitment to the progress of the continent.

Mr. President, the issues that we raised as priority areas that were encapsulated in my address: Peace, Security and Good Governance; Agriculture, Food and Nutrition, Technology and Trade; Health and Capacity Building especially on peace and security front and project preparation and presentation; and Infrastructure are at the core of our determination to change the face of Africa, rebuild confidence among our peoples, attract investors, and reposition our economies for growth and development.

On behalf of my colleagues, I thank you very much for your prompt and comforting response to our request for the renewal of AGOA. I thank you for your positive disposition towards granting AGOA VISA for Nigeria. These give us a lot of hope even as we request that more effort should go into opening market access, debt relief for all Africa but particularly HIPC, and encouraging value addition to our raw materials. We in Nigeria are happy to be a pilot case in the G8 Transparency Compact.

As I indicated in my opening and closing remarks, a structured approach to our relationship is important as set benchmarks that will enable us measure achievements, recognize challenges and where necessary, review set goals. Our NEPAD Secretariat has worked on a set of benchmarks reflecting our regional priorities.

Again, Mr. President, thank you for your consideration, encouragement, support and belief in us. We promise on our part to stay the course of reforms and to encourage those policies and programmes that strengthen wealth creation, poverty eradication, and democratic consolidation. As you rightly concluded, we need to work hard together to ensure that our decisions do not constitute just a "bunch of hot air" but concrete proposals to move forward.

Yours sincerely

/signature/
Olusegun Obasanjo

End text.
CAMPBELL